

INTRODUCTION OF THE VETERANS
EMERGENCY TREATMENT ACT**HON. DAN NEWHOUSE**

OF WASHINGTON

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, January 12, 2017

Mr. NEWHOUSE. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to introduce the Veterans Emergency Treatment (VET) Act. One of the most important functions of our federal government is to support and sustain those who have been willing to sacrifice all they have to defend our nation. Whenever our government fails to meet this responsibility, swift action must be taken. Far too many stories of our nation's veterans receiving inadequate care have plagued the Department of Veterans' Affairs (VA). My legislation seeks to improve one aspect of treatment for our men and women who have served in uniform. The VET Act will ensure every veteran is afforded the highest level of emergency care at all emergency-capable medical facilities under the jurisdiction of the Department of Veterans' Affairs (VA).

The VET Act applies the statutory requirements of the Emergency Medical Treatment and Labor Act (EMTALA) to emergency care provided by the VA to enrolled veterans. EMTALA was enacted by Congress as part of the Consolidated Omnibus Budget Reconciliation Act of 1985 and is designed to prevent hospitals from transferring, or "dumping," uninsured or Medicaid patients to public hospitals. The legislation requires a hospital to conduct a medical examination to determine if an emergency medical condition exists. If such a condition does exist, the hospital is required to either stabilize the patient or comply with the statutory requirements of a proper transfer. If an emergency medical condition still exists and has not been stabilized, the hospital may not transfer the patient unless the patient, after being made aware of the risks, makes a transfer request in writing or a physician certifies that the medical benefits of a transfer outweigh the risks.

It has become clear that the VA is not fulfilling the EMTALA directive. All too frequently, the policy is to turn down those who try to access an emergency room. In February of 2015, 64-year-old Army veteran Donald Siefken, from Kennewick, WA, arrived at the Seattle VA hospital emergency room in severe pain and with a broken foot that had swollen to the size of a football. No longer able to walk, he requested emergency room staff assist him in traveling the ten feet from his car to the emergency room. Hospital personnel promptly hung up on him after stating that he would need to call 911 to assist him at his own expense. Several minutes later a Seattle fire captain and three firefighters arrived to assist him into the emergency room.

The VET Act will amend current law to remove the "non-participating" designation from VA hospital facilities and statutorily require them to fulfill the requirements of EMTALA. My commonsense and straightforward legislation will ensure that every enrolled veteran who arrives at the emergency department of a VA medical facility indicating an emergency condition exists is assessed and treated in an effort to prevent further injury or death.

I urge all members to join me in supporting this legislation. We must ensure our veterans are treated fairly and with the respect they deserve.

HONORING THE LIFE AND SERVICE
OF VICTOR CORSIGLIA, JR.**HON. ZOE LOFGREN**

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, January 12, 2017

Ms. LOFGREN. Mr. Speaker, a mere 62 years ago young Victor Corsiglia Jr. proudly graduated from Stanford Medical School and, in 1956, began a lifetime of practicing medicine. This month, his long practice is ending in retirement.

Vic and his wife, Joan, a registered nurse, first served their country when Vic served as a doctor for the Marines at Camp Pendleton right after graduation. In 1961, they made their way back home to San Jose.

Vic and Joan have never been the kind of people who expect others to do the work. They made immense contributions to our local arts world. Vic volunteered for the San Jose Arts Commission, served as a board member for the San Jose Symphony and, along with Ken Wiener and Barbara Day Turner, founded the San Jose Chamber Orchestra. While serving on the San Jose Arts Commission, Vic brought together Jim Reber and Clay Feldman, who founded the San Jose Repertory Theatre. Joan was also active with the San Jose Symphony and was instrumental in restoring its auxiliary. It is not an exaggeration to say that absent the many contributions of Joan and Vic Corsiglia, the artistic life of our community would have been much poorer.

Joan and Vic also took a great interest in the overall health of the community. Vic served on the Santa Clara County Mental Health Board for many years. Joan, as a neighborhood activist, but also as a nurse who understood the need for effective care, worked for decent care for the mentally ill in group homes.

Joan Corsiglia, with Vic by her side, helped found the Campus Community Association (CCA), one of the first active neighborhood associations in the city of San Jose. CCA grew to become an effective grassroots organization in the Naglee Park neighborhood, protecting the quality of life in this downtown neighborhood. The CCA founded the Naglee Park Fourth of July Parade. Before the parade begins, there is a traditional Coyote Creek Run, first initiated by Vic and Mike McDonald. Joan's civic engagement also included chairing the SJSU Campus-Community Task Force in the 1970s, and working on various local political campaigns, including the election of San Jose's first female mayor, Janet Gray Hayes. Joan served as an aide for Mayor Hayes and later for Mayor Susan Hammer.

Vic and Joan also made an invaluable contribution to local parks when, along with David Pandori and Kathy Muller, Joan helped create the Guadalupe River Park Gardens.

Vic and Joan raised four children in the Naglee Park neighborhood, and all four grew up to follow their parents into careers in the medical professions.

What a mark Vic Corsiglia has made as a member of the medical profession. As a leader of the San Jose Medical Group, he ensured that institutions dedicated to patient well-being would exist and flourish even after his retirement.

As a practicing physician, Vic has been a model of what a doctor should be. Modern in-

surance schemes don't always compensate the internal medicine physician when a patient is hospitalized. But that never stopped Vic from always attending to any patient who was hospitalized. Vic was always on duty to his patients and cared about them as human beings.

Vic Corsiglia has been a doctor who is really obsessive about keeping up with the latest in medicine and he's also a physician who takes the time to thoroughly explore every patient's symptoms, to understand just what is going on with a patient. That may be why Vic Corsiglia is known to have an almost uncanny ability to diagnose ailments, even obscure ones, among his patients. If you don't know what's wrong with you, but you know something is wrong, Vic is the man to see.

In the 56 years he has practiced medicine at the San Jose Medical Clinic, he has saved countless lives and has engendered the gratitude and trust of thousands of patients.

One of them is me. I am grateful that in December of 1980 Vic saved my life just as I am grateful that he has helped heal me and my family so many times over the years. To say we will miss him as a physician does not really capture the sense of loss all of his patients feel. However, I count myself among the lucky because although Vic Corsiglia is retiring from the practice of medicine, he is not retiring from being my neighbor and my friend. I know that Vic and Joan Corsiglia will have many new ventures and adventures before them and I hope to share some of them.

Please join me in recognizing Vic and Joan for their decades of service to our community.

TRIBUTE TO COLONEL PAUL E.
BELL**HON. KEN CALVERT**

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, January 12, 2017

Mr. CALVERT. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor and pay tribute to Paul Edward Bell, Colonel, U.S. Air Force (Retired), who passed away in California on November 16, 2016. Col. Bell dedicated thirty-three years of his life to serve in our military and he will be deeply missed.

Shortly after his high school graduation, Col. Bell enlisted in the U.S. Army Air Corps as an aviation cadet. During World War II, Col. Bell served as a B-24 crew member. Throughout the war, he participated in conflicts on the islands of Morotai, Indonesia and Okinawa, Japan, as well as in support of the final bombing offensive in the Pacific. Col. Bell flew 251 combat missions amassing 862 combat hours in fighter, bomber and rotary wing aircraft. His awards and decorations included the Legion of Merit with four oak leaf clusters, the Distinguished Flying Cross, and the Air Medal with eleven oak leaf clusters, just to name some of the many medals he received.

Even after leaving the military, Col. Bell continued his public service through his participation in numerous community, military support groups and veteran's organizations. He was a member of the Knights of Columbus, the Elks and the Newcomen Society. He was an area vice president for the California Air Force Association; was on the governing boards of the Silver Eagles, the March Field Air Museum,

the Forum, the Riverside Chamber Military Affairs Committee and the 15th Air Force Association. Col. Bell was instrumental in establishing several historic sites on March Air Reserve Base, persuaded Bob Hope to allow the Riverside chapter of the Air Force Association be named in his honor, and established the chapter's annual "Air Crew Excellence Award" for airmen of the 4th Air Force. In 1995, Col. Bell was recognized by Air Mobility Command as its Citizen of the Year. Col. Bell's significant contributions to the base, its units, its uniformed members and government employees will long preserve March Air Reserve Base's legacy in Riverside history.

I had the distinct privilege of knowing Col. Bell for many years and I will deeply miss him. I extend my heartfelt condolences to Col. Bell's wife, Helen, as well as the entire Bell family. Although Col. Bell may be gone, his selfless dedication to our nation will long be remembered.

HONORING THE LIFE OF SARAH
JEFFERSON SIMON

HON. BRIAN BABIN

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, January 12, 2017

Mr. BABIN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the life of Sarah Jefferson Simon. Born

and raised in Orange, Texas on November 26, 1961, Sarah was a lifelong Texan.

In 1989, Sarah joined the Orange Police Department and quickly rose through the ranks as she put her life on the line to protect those of us who call East Texas home. After only one year as a Patrol Officer, she was promoted to the Detective Division and given the rank of Detective-Sergeant. Sarah was the first African-American woman to attain this esteemed role within the City of Orange Police Department. Sarah had a God-given gift for her craft, and was often called upon by other law enforcement agencies to break cold cases and execute some of the region's most challenging criminal investigations.

It is no surprise that, with such a heart for the community, Sarah was also deeply involved with the local school district as a tutor, and served as a Trustee of the West Orange-Cove school district. Her children, Diztorsha and Herman, have continued her legacy of public service as educators.

Sarah was a woman of God, a pillar of faith for those in her community and to those in her care. For over 30 years, she attended Starlight Church of God in Christ and richly gave of her time and talent in service of the Church and its parishioners. Her son, Herman, pastors the faithful in Bon Weir.

Sarah went home to be with her Lord and Savior on Friday, January 6, 2017. She will be deeply missed by those whose lives she

touched. My prayers and condolences go out to Sarah's loving family, and her children, Diztorsha, and Herman. Sarah will be sorely missed, but her legacy will certainly live on.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. XAVIER BECERRA

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, January 12, 2017

Mr. BECERRA. Mr. Speaker, I was unable to cast my floor votes on January 4 and 5, 2017. Had I been present for the votes, I would have voted "yes" on roll call vote number 7, "no" on roll call vote number 8, "no" on roll call vote number 9, "no" on roll call vote number 10, "no" on roll call vote number 11, "no" on roll call vote number 12, "yes" on roll call vote number 13, "yes" on roll call vote number 14, "yes" on roll call vote number 15, "yes" on roll call vote number 16, "yes" on roll call vote number 17, "yes" on roll call vote number 18, "yes" on roll call vote number 19, "yes" on roll call vote number 20, "no" on roll call vote number 21, "yes" on roll call vote number 22, and "no" on roll call vote number 23.